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Circular Letter No.4237/Add.2
27 April 2020

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of the Philippines**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has sent the attached communication, dated 9 April 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY



09 April 2020

HIS EXCELLENCY KITACK LIM

Secretary-General

International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7 SR
United Kingdom

**Subject: ADVISORY ON POSTPONEMENT/ EXTENSION OF STATUTORY SHIP
CERTIFICATES AND SERVICES**

Dear Excellency:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines extends its greetings to the Secretary General and the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and expresses its full support in your call to adopt and apply practical and pragmatic approach to ensure uninterrupted flow of commerce by sea at this unprecedented time.

Following the invitation of IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.6 (26 March 2020), with the subject: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Preliminary list of recommendations for Governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic**, the MARINA wishes to convey to IMO Member States, Port State Control Authorities, and other parties concerned, the temporary contingency measures taken by the MARINA in relation to the extension of statutory certificates issued by MARINA and its Recognized Organizations (RO) for Philippine registered ships engaged in the international trade which can be found in the attached Advisory.

In this regard, the Philippines, through the MARINA, is kindly seeking your assistance to bring this Advisory to the attention of all concerned.

The Philippines assures you of its highest cooperation in your efforts to ensure continuous flow of commerce by sea amidst this pandemic.

With our highest esteem and warmest regards.

Very truly yours,

VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

09 April 2020

MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020-25

Series of 2020

- TO** : All IMO Member States, Flag State Authorities, Port State Authorities, Concerned Government Agencies, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/ Ship Masters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, and Other Concerned Entities
- SUBJECT** : **EXTENSION OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY MARINA AND ITS RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (ROs) AS A TEMPORARY CONTINGENCY MEASURE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In light of the COVID 19 pandemic and following the invitation made in IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 (17 March 2020) and Circular Letter No.4204/Add.6 (27 March 2020) to adopt practical and pragmatic approach in order to ensure that the flow of commerce across borders is not disrupted during this unusual time, the MARINA hereby employs the following temporary contingency measures in the extension of the certificates of all Philippine registered ships:

I. Background:

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has received inquiries from shipowners and Recognized Organization regarding the postponement of inspections and requesting for the extension of the validity of mandatory certificates due to difficulties caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Combined port and travel restrictions being imposed have made it difficult for inspectors to conduct their inspections even when they have been pre-arranged and scheduled.

All of these circumstances together have been considered along with the declaration of the corona virus disease as a public health emergency of international concern and a global pandemic which makes it a *force majeure* condition.

II. Coverage:

All Philippine registered ships engaged in the international trade.

III. Objective:

To ensure that Philippine registered ships in the international trade, to the extent possible, shall not be out of operation due to expired certificates caused by restrictions in travel and port in view of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation as well as to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19.

IV. Extension of Certificates

All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that certificates are kept valid and inspections are performed. However, all matters related to surveys, inspections, certification and/or renewal of statutory certificates that are issued by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the duly authorized flag State administration of the Republic of the Philippines and statutory certificates issued by Recognized Organizations (RO) acting on behalf of this Administration which need to be available onboard Philippine registered ships in accordance with the pertinent IMO maritime instruments are **HEREBY EXTENDED UNTIL 31 MAY 2020**, without further approval from MARINA.

V. Instruction to ROs

All reasonable efforts should be taken to ensure that statutory certificates are kept valid, ROs are hereby authorized to grant extension as described in paragraph IV above. The ROs shall inform the MARINA of the details of the extension being issued to Philippine registered ships.

VI. Notification

The MARINA will notify the International Maritime Organization (IMO), relevant stakeholders such as other member State authorities, port State MOUs and other relevant agencies of this Advisory.

For the information and strict compliance of all concerned.


VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP (Ret)
Administrator

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